



California Department of Veterans Affairs

NEWS FOR VETERANS

Contact: Robert Glazier
Jerry Jones
Jaime Arteaga
Legislation and Public
Affairs
916-653-2192
Fax 916-653-2611
April 15, 2004

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE HEARD IN THE ASSEMBLY VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE APRIL 13, 2004

EACH OF THESE BILLS PASSED BY A VOTE OF 11-0

AB 1880 Maze - Public postsecondary education: mandatory systemwide tuition and fees.

This bill would, commencing with the 2006-07 academic year, request the UC Regents, and require the CSU Trustees, to reduce by 50% the amount of mandatory systemwide tuition and fees charged to, and would require the waiver of community college enrollment fees for, a student who signed up for service in the US Armed Forces in California, who is a resident of California, who served in the Armed Forces for at least 4 years and was honorably discharged, and who has exhausted eligibility for federal military educational benefits. The bill would require the Military Department to determine whether an individual meets specified requirements of the bill and to issue a certificate to an individual who meets these requirements.

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_1851-1900/ab_1880_bill_20040412_amended_asm.html

AB 2033 Nakano - Military service: health care benefits.

This bill would provide that as of January 1, 2005, for the 2004-05 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, qualifying members of the California National Guard, State Military Reserve, or Naval Militia shall be eligible for the same health and dental care benefits as personnel serving on active duty in the service of the state for a period exceeding 30 days.

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_2001-2050/ab_2033_bill_20040331_amended_asm.html

AB 2060 Maddox - National Guard: weapons of mass destruction civil support team.

This bill would authorize a state retention bonus in the amount of \$2,000 to be awarded annually to a member of the California National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team, as specified, provided that the member is a certified hazardous materials specialist or technician.

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_2051-2100/ab_2060_bill_20040217_introduced.html

AB 2266 Veterans Committee - Cal-Vet Farm and Home Loan program.

Existing law provides for farm and home purchase benefits for qualifying veterans under the Veterans' Farm and Home Purchase Act of 1974 and subsequent acts. It authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to assist veterans in acquiring homes and farms by generally providing that the department may purchase a farm or home, which the department then sells to a purchaser, as defined. Existing law defines "home" to include, among other things, a condominium and a mobilehome. This bill would expand the definition of "home" to include cooperative housing, as defined.

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_2251-2300/ab_2266_bill_20040219_introduced.html

AB 2267 Veterans Affairs Committee – Veteran benefits: preference groups.

Under the Farm and Home Purchase Act, the Department of Veterans Affairs establishes preferences for granting benefits to veterans who wish to acquire farms and homes. Existing provisions of the act give 1st preference for benefits to wounded or disabled veterans, as defined, and give 2nd preference for benefits to veterans and their unremarried spouses who meet certain qualifications, including a qualification of 6 months residency by the veteran in California immediately preceding the veteran's entry into active duty. This bill would shorten the requirement to 3 months residency immediately preceding the veteran's entry into active duty.

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_2251-2300/ab_2267_bill_20040219_introduced.html

AB 2268 Veterans Affairs Committee - Veterans' homes: residents' rights.

Existing law provides for the creation and operation of veterans' homes, where aged and disabled veterans and their spouses may live. Veterans residing in a veterans' home have the right to complain to the administrator about home accommodation and services. The administrator of veterans' homes is also required to inform each resident of the right to complain about accommodations and services.

This bill would require the administrator of a veterans' home to inform residents of the name and contact number of the Inspector General of Veterans Affairs.

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_2251-2300/ab_2268_bill_20040219_introduced.html

AB 2565 Parra - Economic development.

This bill would transfer the California Defense Retention and Conversion Council to the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, would establish the Office of Military Support in the agency and authorize the agency to enter into agreements with other agencies to administer these programs, would provide that the office would be in the charge of a director appointed by the Governor, would authorize the office to seek private funds for the operations of the office and the council, would establish the Military Support Account in the Special Deposit Fund in the State Treasury and require that any private funds the council or the office accepts be deposited in that account, would authorize the office, upon the approval of the secretary of the agency, to expend moneys in the account, which would be continuously appropriated to the office, without regard to fiscal years, for specified purposes of the office and the council, thereby making an appropriation.

(2) The Budget Act of 2003 appropriates \$180,000 to the Department of Housing and Community Development for military base reuse and retention.

This bill would provide instead that this sum be appropriated to the Department of General Services for the implementation of the Office of Military Support operations.

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_2551-2600/ab_2565_bill_20040220_introduced.html

AB 2697 Kehoe - Veterans' homes: cost-of-living adjustment.

This bill would require cost-of-living adjustments to federal per diem rates to supplement current federal Trust Fund appropriations to offset costs of member care. This bill would also annually require the Department of Finance, following promulgation of new per diem rates by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, to adjust appropriation amounts as required by this bill.

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_2651-2700/ab_2697_bill_20040412_amended_asm.html

AB 3000 Mountjoy – Veterans Homes

Existing law establishes Veterans' Homes of California for all veterans who are residents of California. Under existing law, priority admission status to a veterans' home is given to Medal of Honor recipients. Existing law also requires residents of the California Veterans Homes who receive an aid and attendance stipend from the federal government to provide this subsidy to the homes in receipt for assistance. This bill would extend priority admission status to prisoners of war, and would exempt residents of domiciliary units of the California Veterans Homes from providing aid and attendance stipends to the homes in receipt for assistance. This bill is sponsored by the California Department of Veterans Affairs.

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_2951-3000/ab_3000_bill_20040220_introduced.html

ACR 171 Maze – Vietnam War Veterans

On March 8, 1965, the United States Marines sent 3,500 Marines that were the first known combat

troops to land in South Vietnam. This measure would request the Governor to proclaim March 8, 2005, a day in honor of Vietnam War veterans and to proclaim that the State of California fly its flags at half-mast on that day in honor of these veterans.

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_0151-0200/acr_171_bill_20040204_introduced.html

**THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE HEARD IN THE SENATE VETERANS AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE APRIL 13, 2004
EACH OF THE BILLS PASSED BY A VOTE OF 5-0**

AB 1592 Committee on Veterans Affairs - California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Program.

The bill would 1) specify that DGS is the administering agency of the DVBE Program, except for contracts for professional bond services, 2) would specify the duties of DGS, 3) would set standards for meeting the program's participation goals, 4) would impose reporting requirements regarding contracts entered into by awarding departments that participate in the program, 5) would specify that the identity of any person that provides information to the awarding department or DGS regarding another person's violation of these prohibitions or a provision of existing law relating to fraud and obstruction of justice in certifying minority, women, or DVBEs is protected from disclosure under the Public Records Act, and 6) would require the DGS small business advocate to provide these services to certified small businesses and certified DVBEs.

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_1551-1600/ab_1592_bill_20040116_amended_asm.html

AJR 36 Dutton - Veterans benefits: Qualified Veterans Mortgage Bonds.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress to enact legislation that would revise provisions of the Internal Revenue Code so that Qualified Veterans Mortgage Bonds may be issued by a state to fund home purchase and home improvement loans to certain additional veterans.

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_0001-0050/ajr_36_bill_20030612_amended_asm.html

SB 1143 Morrow - Veterans' homes: construction and funding.

This bill would delete sections of the Military and Veterans' Code relating to construction and appropriation of funds for the Veterans Home of California at Barstow and would also provide for the repeal of applicable sections relating to construction and funding upon completion and closure of the Chula Vista construction project. This bill is sponsored by the California Department of Veterans Affairs.

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/sen/sb_1101-1150/sb_1143_bill_20040122_introduced.html

SB 1193 Soto - Military service: Surviving Spouses and Children Relief Act.

This bill would require the state to pay a \$10,000 death benefit to the surviving spouse of any member of the California National Guard, State Military Reserve, or Naval Militia who dies or is killed in the performance of duty, as determined by the Military Department. This bill would also provide that the surviving spouse and children of the deceased member shall be considered qualifying members for purposes of obtaining benefits under the National Guard Assumption Program of Loans for Education, and would exempt the spouse and children from paying tuition and fees at any public postsecondary educational institution in this state. This bill would become operative upon an appropriation by the Legislature for purposes.

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/sen/sb_1151-1200/sb_1193_bill_20040412_amended_sen.html

SB 1651 Morrow - Veterans memorial: S.S. Baton Rouge Victory Memorial Plaque.

Existing law provides for the construction of a memorial plaque on the grounds of the state capital for the 6 crewmembers of the S.S. Baton Rouge Victory who were lost at sea in 1996. Existing law requires the construction of this plaque to be funded by private contributions received by the Department of General Services and deposited into a fund for that purpose. Existing law also requires the Department of General Services to approve the design and location of the plaque, as specified. This bill would repeal these provisions relating to the plaque.

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/sen/sb_1651-1700/sb_1651_bill_20040220_introduced.html

Individuals or organizations wishing to subscribe to this service or to unsubscribe may contact us via email at newsforveterans@cdva.ca.gov or by telephone at **1-800-952-5626** or **916-653-2192**. For more news and information of interest to veterans, visit our website at www.cdva.ca.gov.